Marketing of drugs having adverse effects

2869. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of drugs being marketed in India are proved to produce adverse reactions such as anti-inflammatory, anti-coagulants, corticosteroids, antineoplastic agents and others, if so, names of those drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that chloroquine and Diethylstibestrol given to pregrant mother can produce dangerous effect to the child, if so, what steps have been taken for their precautions; and

(c) whether it is a fact that: Hydroxyquinoline compounds drugs have proved to be very toxic, if so, why such drugs have been allowed to be marketed in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Every drug has desirable therapeutic effect and undesirable side effect-adverse reaction. Anti-inflammatory drugs such as Aspirin, Prenylbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone, Ibuprofen, Naproxen, Ketoprofen, Diclofenac Sodium, Pyroxicam, etc. generally produce gastritis, gastric bleeding/ulcer as side effects and some drugs may also produce blood disorders. Similarly, anti-coagulants like heparin and coumarin derivatives may produce excessive bleeding in sensitive population as an adverse reaction, Dexamethasone, Hydrocortisone, etc. which are life saving drugs can produce on continued treatment deposition of fat under the skin of the face and clavicle (moon face) osteoporosis in long bones, etc. as adverse reactions. Antineoplastic drugs i.e. anti-cancer drugs like Vincristine, Vinblastic, etc. on continued treatment can produce falling of hair, blood disorders etc.

(b) Like many drugs Chloroquine and Diethylstibestrol can produce adverse effects on the children if these drugs are given to pregnant mothers. These drugs are contra-indicated and the medical profession are aware of it.

(c) Experts have considered Hydroxyquinoline group of drugs useful for the treatment of diarrhoea and did not recommend withdrawal.

Harmful effect of Imodium and Lomotil

2870. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Imodium and Lomotil have proved to be potentially harmful and World Health Organisation have made certain recommendations in this regard; and

(b) if so, details of the recommendations and the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Imodium, a brand of Loperamide and Lomotil, a brand of Diphenoxylate Hydrochloride, both anti-diarrhoeal drugs, by virtue of their pharmacological action may cause Central Nervous System stimulation as side effects particularly in children and accordingly. WHO and other advisory body have recommended not to use these drugs in children. In India also, use of these drugs are contra-indicated for children.

Withdrawal of marketing permission for the vaccine combinations

2871. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply Unstarred Question 441 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 1987 and state:

(a) when were the instructions sent to FDA, Maharashtra to withdraw the permission granted for marketing of the vaccine in combination with Polio vaccine;

(b) whether FDA, Maharashtra has taken action in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?